

Asquith Resigns; Post Offered to Bonar Law

WILSON ASKS LAW TO CHECK RAIL STRIKES

Message to Congress Seeks Stronger Commerce Commission

READING HALTED BY SUFFRAGISTS

Unfurl Banner Asking President What He Will Do for Them

[From The Tribune Bureau.]
Washington, Dec. 5.—President Wilson outlined his plan to prevent railway strikes in his annual message to Congress today. His programme was that drawn at the time of the strike threat of the brotherhoods, making strikes illegal until arbitration has been tried. He also asked a corrupt practices act and broader government for Porto Rico.

The address was marked by the first demonstration of suffrage militancy in the capital. Women advocates of the Anthony amendment broke in on the President's message, literally taunting their question in his face.

"President Wilson, what will you do for woman suffrage?"

The query, blazoned in black on a great yellow banner, fluttered down across the face of the visitors' gallery and checked the President in the full swing of his address. He had lifted his eyes from his manuscript as the banner unfurled and hung from the hands of five members of the Women's congressional Union, guarded from interruption by another five.

Wilson, Stammers, Then Smiles

For a moment Mr. Wilson stared at the question suddenly flung before him, and tripped and stammered over the next word of his message. Then he smiled broadly and returned to his manuscript without giving further notice to the interruption.

This was the welcome that suffrage offered to the President on his visit to the floor of the House. Another and far more acceptable salutation had preceded it.

When the doorkeeper announced "The President of the United States" and the joint session rose to its feet there was a moment of silence as his slim, studious figure entered the chamber. Then the silence was shattered by a full-throated yell, which proceeded from William Jennings Bryan, who stood on the floor of the House. Members of the President's cabinet, to his left, caught up the yell. From there it ran to the ranks of the Democrats, upon Mr. Wilson's right, and leaped to the galleries.

Democrats Celebrate Victory

In a moment half the floor and the entire gallery was howling in half a dozen different keys. Across the aisle from the frantic adherents of the President, stood the ranks of the Republicans, silent and unmoved by the storm that broke about them.

For several minutes the Democrats celebrated their return from victory, of the noise which increased power as the speaker, apparently believing he was at a camp meeting, burst forth with a veritable "Amen!" which gave new life to the racket.

A few minutes before the entry of the President the Democrats had paid a similar, though milder, tribute to Mr. Bryan. The Commander came directly from the office of Claude Kitchin to the floor of the House. As soon as he was recognized, he received a demonstration which must have reminded him of Presidential conventions.

Wilson Begins, Women Wait

When order was restored, Mr. Wilson began his address, reviewing recommendations for legislation, including the proposed increase of power of the suffragists, and her nine accomplices stifled and prepared for action.

Miss Vernon, from Nevada, and had earned earlier fame among the militants by her leading of the right of the American Federation of Labor speech on July 4. It was she who had smuggled the banner into the house, concealing it beneath her coat.

At Mr. Wilson turned to the question of extending the franchise among the men of Porto Rico, she and four others gripped the upper edge of the banner. These four were Dr. Caroline L. Spurgeon, of Montana; Mrs. Florence Bayly Hilles, of Delaware; Mrs. Anna Lowenberg, of Pennsylvania; and Miss Beattie H. Papadour, of California. The five who stood ready to guard the standard banner against the violence which never came were Miss Maud Gilbert, of California; Mrs. W. L. Colt, of New York; Miss Lucy Burns, of the Congressional Union; and Mrs. Townsend Scott, of Maryland.

"Present Laws Unjust"

"The present laws governing the island and regulating the rights and privileges of its people are not just," read the President.

Then the flag unfurled. Its holders stood smiling and calm, watching its effect.

The question was heard to the gaze of the House only for a brief moment. Police and gallery guards started toward where the women were standing. Whether the suffragists would have made further disturbance in the defence of their banner will never be determined, for by the time the first policeman reached them they were clinging only to a frayed strip of yellow silk. Their flag had been attacked from below and confiscated.

Two men on the floor lifted a small

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ANNE MORGAN TO AID IN STAGING BIG BOUT

Will Handle Purse of Carpenter for French Relief Fund

With the announcement that Georges Carpenter, heavyweight champion of Europe, had been tentatively matched to fight Jess Willard here in New York some time in February it became known that Miss Anne Morgan and Miss Elisabeth Marbury were to handle his end of the game receipts.

The former part of the statement above was learned from Tex Rickard, fight promoter; the latter from Miss Morgan herself.

Carpenter will receive \$40,000 for his end of the purse. This has been guaranteed him, and it will be turned over entire to the French Relief Fund. The soldier-boxer will not get a cent beyond his training expenses.

He has a three months' furlough, and will occupy his time during this respite in fighting for the wounded and destitute of France. After this is over he will return to the aviation corps.

"Miss Marbury and I were approached on the subject," said Miss Morgan last night. "We agreed that we would act as custodians of the fund, just as we would for any other European charity. She has more to do with it than I have. It is perfectly silly to say that I have any part in it at all or that I asked the French government to release Carpenter."

WAX TO FACE GIRLS TO-DAY

"O. Osborne" Arrives; Mystery Woman New Accuser

Charles H. Wax, who is said by the government authorities to be Oliver Osborne, was brought to New York last night.

Handcuffed to a deputy United States marshal and guarded by a group of Postoffice inspectors and deputy marshals, Wax reached the Pennsylvania Station at 8:20 o'clock. After an hour spent in the office of Roger B. Wood, Assistant United States District Attorney, the prisoner was locked in the Tombs.

Although Wax had been lively and, as one of the Postoffice inspectors expressed it, "very entertaining" on the trip from Chicago, he became gloomy as soon as he stepped off the train. His gloom deepened during the ride downtown, and by the time Mr. Wood had finished questioning Wax the latter was sullenly muttering to himself.

Wax by No Means Soft

He refused to make any statement and threatened to "beat up" one insistent reporter. Through Inspector William Swain he denied that he had been interviewed in Chicago, and branded as "a lot of lies" the stories that he had confessed to the details of his early career as a lover.

Although his nails were highly polished, his tan shoes shined glossily and his hands were fat and soft, Wax appeared to be far from being the effeminate person that Oliver Osborne has been generally believed to be. The prisoner weighed 200 pounds, was broad shouldered and apparently possessing considerable strength and a flow of language of a masculine nature.

He is very powerful and quick in action," said Inspector Swain. "A photographer tried to snap his picture on the station platform at Chicago and Wax bawled him all over the place."

"Is it true that he has confessed to being Oliver Osborne?"

"Yes," said Swain. "He has admitted that. He said that he had come to New York to fight a great wrong."

"How did he behave on the trip from Chicago?"

A Charming Fellow

"He was a charming fellow," said Inspector Swain; "just what the women who have known Oliver Osborne have described him—a brilliant, likable man."

The government injected a new element of mystery into the Tanzer-Osborne tangle last night when Assistant District Attorney Hershenstein said that a woman who has not hitherto appeared in the lists of Oliver's victims would scrutinize Wax to-day to see if she can identify him as the man she in his American Federation of Labor speech on July 4. It was she who had smuggled the banner into the house, concealing it beneath her coat.

"Her name," said Mr. Hershenstein, "will never be mentioned. She volunteered to be a witness on condition

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FOXHALL KEENE HURT BY FALL IN HUNT MEET

Sportsman Has Concussion of Brain—Condition Dangerous

Baltimore, Dec. 5.—Attended by one of Johns Hopkins Hospital's most eminent specialists, Foxhall Keene, well known sportsman, to-night lies dangerously ill in the Hartford Country Club at Farmingdale. He is suffering from concussion of the brain, caused this afternoon when he either fell or was thrown from his horse in the joint hunt's meeting. Just how he received the injuries has not been disclosed.

A search for the wealthy polo player was started when his mount returned to the clubhouse riderless. Mr. Keene was found unconscious half a mile away and was carried to a bed. Dr. Omar Pancoast was summoned.

"While Mr. Keene is in a serious condition," the physician said to-night, "it is too early to say whether he is fatally injured. He has moments of consciousness."

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF LARCENY IN VICTROLA CASE

Jury Convicts Dealer Exposed as Faker by The Tribune

40-YEAR PRISON TERM POSSIBLE

Witnesses Tell How Ex-Convict Duped Them—Branded Swindler

Through the persistent activity of The Tribune's Bureau of Investigation, which had been on his trail since August, Charles E. Ackron, a past master of the art of fraudulent advertising, yesterday was found guilty by a jury in the Kings County Court of grand larceny in the second degree.

He will be sentenced on Monday by Judge Norman S. Dike, who presided at the trial, and may get a term of 40 years in prison, as an habitual offender. It was shown that he had served three terms in the penitentiary for similar offenses.

Ackron has had many schemes for defrauding the public, his mediums of deception being automobiles, bad checks, pianos and phonographs.

He was thriving well upon the credulous people of Brooklyn for nearly a year through misleading and deceptive phonograph advertisements inserted in "Chat," "The Corona Star" and "The Evening Telegram." He even boasted of his ability as a shrewd ad writer, who was always within the law.

Woman Aid to Prosecution

One of the most powerful weapons put into the hands of Thomas Peters, the prosecuting attorney, was the testimony of Mrs. Esther Weiner, of The Tribune's bureau.

"You have heard what this woman from The Tribune told you under oath about Ackron," said Mr. Peters in summing up to the jury. "When she protested to him about his misrepresentations the prisoner, Ackron, replied: 'Yes, I am a clever crook. I can do business anywhere this side of jail. I ran a cafe in the Tenderloin (The Tivoli), and when 'The World' exposed me I profited by the publicity. I even sent a check of \$1,000 to the owner of that paper for the favor he had done me.'"

Ackron's trial began on Monday, after his counsel, Lawrence T. Gresser, had postponed it for many weeks, asserting that his client was ill. Impatient at the delay, Judge Dike ordered Ackron to appear for trial on December 4, declaring that if he failed he would be held in contempt.

War Office Versions of Rumanian Drive

Berlin, Dec. 5.—To-night's official report says:

We continue to make progress in the direction of Bucharest and Ploesti. The day report says:

Front of Archduke Joseph—Renewed Russian attacks on Capul and the Putna, east of Dorna-Vatra and in the Putna, Trotus and Uzul valleys were without the slightest success. Simultaneously German and Austro-Hungarian troops captured by storm and hand-to-hand fighting a height position lost during the preceding fighting and which was an important one for us.

After these engagements, of which

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THREE-COURSE MEALS NOW LIMIT IN BRITAIN

Use of Meat Soon To Be Forbidden on Certain Days

London, Dec. 5.—The Board of Trade, under the defence of the realm act, has issued an order that after December 18 no meal exceeding three courses served in any hotel, restaurant or public place, or two courses at any other time.

The announcement adds that it is proposed to issue soon another order forbidding the eating on certain days of meat, poultry and game.

JAGOW FOR POLICY OF PLACATING U. S.

London, Dec. 5.—A wireless dispatch from Berne to-day quotes Maximilian Harden in the "Zukunft" as saying that Herr von Jagow left the German Foreign Office because he disapproved of a submarine policy which offended the United States. Herr von Jagow also disagreed with the policy of deporting French and Belgians from the occupied territories, the article declares.

FOE AT GATES OF BUCHAREST

Mackensen, 7 Miles from Capital, Breaks All Resistance

[By Cable to The Tribune.]
London, Dec. 5.—Bucharest is almost within the Teuton grip. While the enemy's forces have moved steadily nearer the capital, until they are now only seven miles away, the Russian offensives in the Carpathians, Eastern Transylvania and the Dobruja appear to have been checked.

The troops of Delmingsen smashed forward to-day from the Tergovitz region and are closing in on Ploesti and the railway to Bucharest. If this line is cut the Rumanians will have only one avenue of escape left open—the railroad to Cernavoda, and that is gradually being narrowed by the advance of the enemy's columns to the north and south of the city.

Lose Twenty-five Thousand Prisoners

The losses of the Rumanians and their allies have been terrific. In the last week Mackensen and Falkenhayn have taken 25,000 prisoners, besides extending their conquest of Rumanian lands to nearly 25,000 square miles and seizing vast stores of grain, oil and military supplies. The man power and gun power of the Rumanians have been so crippled that they are in no condition to offer effective resistance.

A Turkish statement received to-day states that the Teutonic troops are seven miles from Bucharest. This point probably has been reached to the south of the city, where the enemy were reported yesterday to have crossed the Argeus.

The left wing of the Danube army of Mackensen has fought its way beyond the Argeus sector, according to to-day's report from Berlin. Russian efforts to stay the enemy's advance in the Danube lowlands proved unsuccessful.

Advance from North

The biggest advance of the hostile forces toward Bucharest was scored in the sector immediately north and northwest of the capital. Berlin states that the German troops, during the pursuit of the Rumanians, broke the resistance of their rear guards and crossed the Bucharest-Tergovitz railroad "to the eastward." The retreat of the Rumanians north and northwest of Bucharest is admitted by Petrograd.

The immediate future looks darker and darker for the Allies, principally because of the failure of the Russians to meet the crisis. Their campaign has shattered all hope after another.

It is impossible to state where the Rumanians will make their final stand, for all estimates of their strength have been proved wrong by the recent developments.

It is the country north of Bucharest that the Teutons most anxious to get, for it is estimated that there are nearly a million tons of oil stored there. The vastness of this supply is due to the fact that Rumania placed an embargo on the export of petrol.

25 AMERICANS ON TORPEDOED LINER; 1 KILLED

Palermo, Armed Munition Ship from New York, Sunk

CARRIED 70 TONS OF DEADLY 'T. N. T.'

Germany Pleads Arabia Was Taken for Transport—Issue Up to Wilson

Madrid, Dec. 5.—The Italian steamship Palermo, with twenty-five Americans on board, has been torpedoed off the Spanish coast.

One sailor, reported to be an American, was wounded by a shell and died in a hospital at Palafuella, Spain, where the survivors were landed. Three others were seriously wounded by the torpedo.

The Palermo, 9,203 tons gross, sailed from New York on November 15 for Genoa and Spezia.

Captain Duffy of the steamer Chemung, recently sunk, arrived here to-day. He went to the American Embassy, where he made a statement regarding the sinking of his vessel.

"I consider the torpedoing of the Chemung absolutely unjust," Captain Duffy told The Associated Press correspondent. "We carried a general cargo worth \$2,000,000 and had no contraband whatever."

"Jacobson, the third mate, was on the bridge. He sighted the submarine at a distance he judged to be two miles. We received no warning or any signal. The submarine began firing."

"The first shot missed the ship. The second struck the bow, shattering it."

Washington Believes Palermo Tried Flight

Washed Dec. 5.—A brief consular dispatch received late to-day announced the sinking of the Italian steamer Palermo, with twenty-five Americans aboard, off the Spanish coast. It gave no details.

News dispatches showing that the ship, armed with defence guns and loaded with horses and munitions for the Allies, was shelled before being torpedoed led officials to believe that she had attempted to escape after being warned, and thus had lost her immunity from attack.

Thought Arabia a Transport

A preliminary reply from Germany to the request for information concerning the sinking of the British liner Arabia was cabled to the State Department to-day by the American Embassy at Berlin.

It said that a submarine commander had reported attacking the ship, believing her to be an armed transport, and asked that the United States inform the imperial government of any evidence it might have about the incident and the character of the vessel.

Secretary Lansing declined to comment upon the communication further than to say that it added nothing to the information in the hands of the department.

A similar situation exists in regard to the case of the British horse ship Marina, on which six American horse-tenders lost their lives and the character of which is in dispute.

Review of facts governing Germany's recent submarine activities is in the hands of President Wilson, and action on any of the cases at issue awaits word from him.

Carried Two Guns Aft; Loaded with Explosives

The Palermo carried no passengers, but had on board fifty-four horse handlers, including forty-three Americans, it was said to-day at the New York offices of Hartfield, Solari & Co., agents for the Navigazione Generale Italiana, which owned the vessel. Her cargo was valued at \$1,500,000.

Besides 835 mules and 163 horses, the Palermo carried 70 tons of "T. N. T." (trinitrotoluene), the most powerful explosive made, and tons of munitions and war supplies.

Before the war the Palermo was engaged in passenger service to Naples and Palermo, Italy, but since has been used solely to transport supplies purchased by the Allies here.

The Palermo carried two 3-inch guns mounted aft "for defence only," said Mr. Solari, of the agents.

DUMA PRESIDENT DESIGNS

Insulted by Leader of Right, Who Is Barred for Fifteen Sessions

London, Dec. 5.—Michael Rodzianko, President of the Russian Duma, has resigned because he was insulted by the extreme right leader, G. M. Markoff, according to a Reuter dispatch from Petrograd.

Markoff interrupted Mr. Rodzianko, calling him a "babbling blackguard." He explained that he was deliberately insulting the Duma, in the person of its President, because the Duma in a previous sitting had insulted high personages. Mr. Rodzianko immediately left the Presidential chair, declaring he had been insulted not only as President but as a man.

On motion of Vice-President Count Bobrinsky, M. Markoff was excluded from the Duma for fifteen sessions.

Belgians Are Driven Into First Trenches, Maeterlinck Charges

Famous Poet Says Germans Carry on "Butchery, Not War," and Systematically Starve the People—Declares Only Action by United States Can Save Nation

Maurice Maeterlinck, the great Belgian poet and dramatist, has made an appeal through The Tribune to the American people for his countrymen who are being led into slavery by the Germans.

While on his way from Nice to Spain, the poet went to Paris to meet the Tribune correspondent, Fred B. Pitney, and through him transmits the following message:

By MAURICE MAETERLINCK
Paris, December 5.

Tell the American people the whole world calls on them to stop the monstrous inhumanity of Germany. Tell them the whole world is watching to see if they still retain the spirit of their fathers, the founders of their great country.

It is only America that can act, that can help now. America is the greatest of all neutrals, and she alone has the strength and power to make her voice heard across the boundaries of Germany. No other country is great enough. Holland and the Scandinavian countries are all too small. Spain, though with the best will in the world, is only a secondary power, divided by politics and the Church.

Time for America to Act

The smaller states have protested. Now let America act. The time for protests is past. Germany is acting; let America act. Let America place herself at the head of a league of neutrals with a policy of action—not to protest, but to act—to force Germany to cease her inhuman policy of slavery and death to the smaller nations. Perhaps a policy of reprisal would serve.

But, whatever it is, it must be a policy of action, not merely a weak, formal protest. Germany must understand that there are will and strength behind a protest. Force is the only argument she will understand or heed.

Does America understand what is being done to Belgium and Belgians? There are no words in the human language to tell the story. There is no precedent in history. One must go back beyond the Deluge.

What Rome did was to make slaves and care for them tenderly and preserve their lives and usefulness. What Germany is doing is wholesale murder. She seeks to destroy a race. Germany is practising not merely slavery, but death.

People Being Systematically Starved

The population of all Belgium is being systematically starved. Consumption and other diseases stalk through the land.

The miserable inhabitants are dying like animals. Women and children are being herded into Germany to make munitions for the German army. Every man between the ages of eighteen and thirty is being taken, not to German factories, but to the German trenches.

There are fifty thousand Belgians under forced labor digging trenches for the Germans back of Soissons. They are half-starved men, seized from the factories and dragged into the frozen fields of winter, clothed often only in a single garment, driven with the bayonet to dig trenches and set up wire entanglements.

The Germans will say that the Belgians are made to work only in the second and third lines of trenches, but we know that they work in the first line, under fire, with the slave-drivers standing guard over them.

Murder and Butchery; Not War

How we come to know these things we do not tell. To tell would mean death for some poor unfortunate in Germany. Only Saturday I received word of the death of one of my old friends. He had been seized by one of the German slave gangs and was killed in the first line of the German trenches back of Soissons, where he was being forced to dig a trench for his captors. That is not war. That is murder. That is butchery.

President Wilson said last Saturday in his New York speech that permanent peace could be founded only on the principle of liberty for the whole world. Did he include Belgium? What

SHOTS ON ASTOR ESTATE

Watchman at Ferneliff Has Skirmish With Four Armed Prowlers

Poughkeepsie, Dec. 5.—As Peter Wheeler, night watchman for the last twenty years on Vincent Astor's estate, Ferneliff, near Rhinebeck, rounded a corner of the house on his beat this morning he saw four men creeping toward the building from the river edge.

He shouted and then fired his revolver in the air. The men dropped to the grass and opened a return fire that made Wheeler seek the protection of a tree. He continued to blaze away, until the quartet fled. Servants who ran from the house, aided in the pursuit. Later Sheriff Conklin, with a half dozen deputies, searched the estate, but could find no trace of the intruders.

DRYS, LED BY SUNDAY, GAIN IN BAY STATE

Win in Fall River, Haverhill, Taunton and Leominster

[From a Staff Correspondent of The Tribune.]
Boston, Dec. 5.—The first effect of "Billy" Sunday's Bay State campaign against the liquor interests became a matter of official record to-day, when Fall River, Haverhill, Taunton and Leominster voted themselves dry.

Reports from Fall River to-night agree that Sunday's flying trip to that city on Saturday swung it into the dry column. It was the first victory for no-licence forces since 1908.

Haverhill, wet for seven years, went dry by a small margin, Sunday being credited with the victory.

Taunton, after sixteen years of license, shifted to the dry column, while Leominster resumed no license after a year and a half in the wet ranks. The wet margin in New Bedford was greatly reduced, while the drives of the license advocates in Brockton, Salem, Cambridge and Waltham failed to swing those cities into the wet column.

LLOYD GEORGE MAY BE NEXT CABINET HEAD

Bonar Law Likely to Refuse, Giving Way to War Secretary

PREMIER QUIT AS HE SEEMED VICTOR

Rival Had Offered His Resignation, but It Was Not Accepted

London, Dec. 5.—Herbert H. Asquith has resigned as Premier of Britain. His resignation was accepted to-day by the King.

To Andrew Bonar Law, the Unionist leader, has been offered the post of Prime Minister. His decision has not been made.

The recent rumors of the resignation of David Lloyd George as War Minister were confirmed to-night by an official announcement that he had tendered his resignation, which has not been accepted.

Bonar Law May Refuse

There are some doubts whether Bonar Law will accept the heavy responsibility. If he declines it is considered certain that the honor will fall to David Lloyd George. The continuation of the coalition Cabinet, with some changes in its membership, and the speeding up of the war management will be the policy in either event.

There is much talk to-night of the possibilities of a general election. Bonar Law first would form a Cabinet, if he takes office, as it is necessary that the government be carried on, and then appeal to the electors for a ratification of his administration.

There is strong opposition, however, to any political campaign, which must necessarily divert the country's energies from the war work while it lasted. The new government may decide to go ahead, with the approval of the House of Commons only, and not seek the sanction of the voters.

Says Coalition Will Fall

"The Daily News's" Parliamentary correspondent expresses the belief that it will be impossible to form another coalition government. He says Sir Edward Carson and Lloyd George would both serve under Bonar Law's Premiership, but that it is understood the Liberal ministers who belonged to the expiring coalition ministry would not serve without Mr. Asquith.

The correspondent adds that the position of the Laborites has not yet been defined, but that they would be definitely hostile to a ministry of which Lloyd George was the Premier. The correspondent says he believes the rank and file of the Liberals are willing for a time to support Bonar Law.

Summing up the outlook, "The Times" says everything is in the air at present and there is no telling what will happen. "The suggestion was made here and there Tuesday night that Mr. Asquith was not done with politics and that the Parliamentary situation might compel his return to power," adds "The Times."

Politicians Buy All Day

The Premier's decision to resign and advise the King to summon Bonar Law to form a Cabinet was taken after a day of extraordinary political excitement and activity. There were constant comings and goings of the political leaders between Downing Street and the various government departments. Mr. Asquith met several Unionist leaders in consultation, including Earl Curzon, Lord Robert Cecil and the Earl of Derby.

Noticeable absentees from this conference were A. J. Balfour, who is ill; Bonar Law; J. Austen Chamberlain and Walter Hume Long.

Later in the afternoon the Premier met his supporters, including Viscount Grey, Lewis Harcourt, Edwin S. Montagu, the Marquis of Crewe, Reginald McKenna, Walter Runciman, Lord Buckmaster, H. Samuel, Lord Reading and Arthur Henderson.

Tenders His Resignation

The meeting lasted for more than an hour, and it is supposed that Mr. Asquith explained that he was faced by almost insuperable obstacles to the reconciliation of the conflicting interests, and intended to tender his resignation. Almost immediately the Premier drove to the palace and had an audience with the King.

Then came this court circular:

The Right Hon. Mr. Asquith had an audience with his majesty the King